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February 1, 2006

via fax 202-565-9004 and  
Original and ten copies via DHL Express

Honorable Vernon A. Williams, Secretary  
Surface Transportation Board  
1925 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20423

ENTERED  
Office of Proceedings

FEB 3 2006

Part of  
Public Record

Re: STB Docket No. AB-859 (Sub-No. 1X), Pennsylvania Lines LLC –  
Abandonment Exemption – in Northampton County, PA, embracing STB  
Docket No. AB-290 (Sub-No. 245X), Norfolk Southern Railway Company  
– Discontinuance of Service Exemption – in Northampton County, PA,  
– Request for Extension of Time to Consummate Abandonment

Dear Mr. Williams:

Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NSR), as successor by merger to Pennsylvania Lines, LLC, hereby requests a one-year extension of time from the currently extended date of February 10, 2006 (STB served February 9, 2005) to Monday, February 12, 2007 to consummate the abandonment of the line between milepost EK-53.0 at Hellertown and milepost EK-56.7 at Bethlehem, in Northampton County, PA that was the subject of these proceedings. NSR continues to explore options for the long-term disposition of the line, principally for public or trail use. Currently, consummation of the abandonment would unduly limit those options.

NSR requests this lengthy extension because long-term plans for the line and provisions for local governmental or public authority funding to carry out those plans have not been finalized. The extension will give greater flexibility to NSR, the City of Bethlehem and any other party interested in making the most productive future use of this right-of-way without requiring NSR to request several shorter extensions of time and the Board to process those requests. If the circumstances change, especially if NSR determines that consummation of the abandonment should take place at an earlier date, NSR will then advise the Board and request an appropriate order.

Very truly yours,



James R. Paschall